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16. (Amended) The metal oxide support of claim 14, suitable for performing a probe-based assay.

17. (Amended) A kit comprising the metal oxide support of claim 14, further comprising a detection means for determining whether binding has occurred between the biomolecules and an analyte.

Please add the following new claims 20-22.

20. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the solution is pH 6-7.

21. (New) The metal oxide support of claim 15, suitable for performing a probe-based assay.

22. (New) A kit comprising the metal oxide support of claim 15, further comprising a detection means for determining whether binding has occurred between the biomolecules and an analyte.

Remarks

This application has 22 claims, including amended claims 1-3, 16 and 17, and new claims 20-22. The claim amendments are solely to make the claims more consistent with U.S. practice. As such, the claims as amended are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Additionally, any narrowing claim amendments made herewith are not made for purposes of patentability, but rather to make the claims consistent with U.S. patent practice and to eliminate multiple dependencies to avoid the